

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

CALLED TO WORSHIP / COMMITTED TO SERVE / CONNECTED IN FAITH

March 2020

A monthly Publication of  
St. John Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule  
Saturday Worship  
6:00 PM

Sunday Worship  
8:00 & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:15 AM

Pastors

Pastor Mark Johnson  
Pastor Sarah Timian

Office Staff

Jillmarie Stich  
Audrey Zellman

Treasurer

Rae Fimon

Custodians

Curt & Cheryl Johnson

Organists

Eileen Hanlon  
Diane West

Choir Director  
Bri Bergstrom

Accompanist  
Sheila Schmidt

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Belle Plaine, MN 56011

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**Lenten Services**  
**March 4 thru April 1**  
**6:30p**

**Midweek Lenten Services**

**Our Lenten schedule for each Wednesday will be as follows:**

**5:30p-6:20p Supper the Gathering Area-** (hosted by our Confirmation small groups and Mission Trip Youth with proceeds going to support our youth.)

**6:30p Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Our Midweek Lenten services will feature the Holden Evening Prayer Service including members of our congregation taking the opportunity to share with the rest of us what being a Christian means to them. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for these special evenings together.

**Soup and Sandwich Suppers**  
**March 4 thru April 1**  
**Starting at 5:30p**  
**See the Menus inside**



**March 15th**  
**Camp Sunday at St. John**

## *From Pastor Mark*

Once again, we find ourselves in the Season of Lent. This is one of my favorite seasons of the year. We begin with Ash Wednesday. In a culture that tries to tell us that we need to have more, that our worth is measured by our abilities and possessions, we come forward to receive the ashes on our brow along with the solemn pronouncement to remember that we are dust and to dust we will return. All the things the world around us promotes as markers of rank and importance fade away in the simple truth-telling that none of it will last. Following the receiving of our mortal ashes upon our brow, we receive the precious gift of the body and blood of Christ. This is, as St. Paul said, a foretaste of that time when “this perishable nature shall put on the imperishable and this mortal nature shall be clothed with immortality.” And so, as St. Paul also writes, “we look not at what is seen, for that is already passing away, but at what is eternal.” Ash Wednesday tells us the truth about our existence and helps us to keep our purpose and priorities straight.

Lent concludes by leading us to the great events of Holy Week. We follow Jesus into his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, knowing full well what awaits him later in the week. We gather at the table of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, meditating upon Jesus’ washing of his disciples feet, his Commandment that we are to love one another even as he has loved us, and the institution of his body and blood, to be received by faith, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins and for the continued strengthening of our life together in Christ. We follow him from the table and go to dark Gethsemane where we see him betrayed and arrested. We watch as Pilate has him stripped, beaten and condemned to death. We stand at the foot of the cross and hear him pray for those who are crucifying him that they be forgiven for they do not know what they are doing. We see him breathe his last and the great stone rolled in front of the door of his rock-hewn tomb. We wait with the women through the Sabbath on Saturday, as his body lies still in death. And we come with the women out to the tomb early on Sunday morning to find the angel saying, “Why are you searching for the living among the dead. He is not here. He has risen!” Lent culminates with these great and saving events that are so central to our Christian faith, the cross and the empty tomb.

In between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, for five Wednesdays we will gather on Wednesday evenings. We begin with a meal and fellowship. I’m thankful for our Confirmands, Small Group Leaders, Mission Trip Participants and Families who provide the hospitality of our meals. It’s fun to gather together and enjoy each other’s company on these special evenings.

After our meal we enter into the Sanctuary for a time of worship. We will be using the beautiful “Holden Evening” service, which comes back to us again like an old friend. We celebrate with beautiful music, we read the Scripture, and we hear a member of our congregation share their faith story of what being a Christian means to them. I’m thankful for everyone who helps to put the service on and for all of us who gather to worship.

And this brings me to one final thing. As we look forward to listening to others share what being a Christian means to them, I would like to ask that you think through that question for yourself. It’s good to be intentional about it. What does being a Christian mean to you? As you take the time to think and pray about this, I believe you will be blessed and your faith will be deepened. I look forward to being with you as we travel through this deep and rich season together!

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### **Mission Trip Easter & Spring Flower Fundraiser**

The Mission Trip Youth will be selling Spring and Easter flowers to fundraise for their upcoming trip to Vermont this June. Flowers can be picked up from church Easter weekend or may be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter morning and picked up after the services. Purchasers have the option to designate their flower in memory of or honor of a loved one which will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Order forms are available with mission trip youth and also at the script table starting Sunday, March 1 through Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. For questions or more information, please contact Sara Fahey at 952-873-2682.



## From Pastor Sarah

### FEELING VS. BEING

Edited Excerpts from the Sermon for February 9, 2020 (The Day of the Blizzard)

*“ [Jesus said:] 13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.  
14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”  
--Matthew 5:13-15*

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

These are amazing words. They're inspiring words. They're words that— hearing them, hearing Jesus say them, should just make you feel bright and shiny and essential. This is light we're talking about. Plants grow because of that. We depend on light. We depend on salt. It's essential. It's vital.

That's what Jesus has said we are, so we should know that about ourselves. We are bright and essential. We should be inspired by these words. We should feel lifted up, happy, brilliant, and meaningful.

There are times I feel like that. There are moments when I know what I said or did made a difference. Sometimes when I'm at church, the Scripture just clicks, and the music reinforces that message. Sometimes I just know that what I've done is right or helpful, and I set out to do something even better.

If I'm honest, though, there are days— even weeks— that I don't feel that. In fact, there are times I feel dull and bland. There are times— even at church— when the music doesn't resonate and the readings feel like they're not for me. I won't pretend I'm unique in this. I've had other people actually tell me this happens to them, too. The Scripture didn't feel relevant, and the worship service didn't speak to them.

The people Jesus is speaking to in these verses are gathered on the side of a mountain. These are probably not people who feel like they have it all together or have everything figured out. They're not the ones who think they're brilliant or effective or essential— but they are. Jesus says they are. That's likely not something they were already feeling— I doubt they'd be there if they did.

I'm going to say something a little radical about that. Maybe it's not about how you feel on a given day or week. Jesus didn't say *feel* like the salt of the earth or the light of the world. He didn't say *feel* like you're brilliant or essential. Jesus said that you *are* it.

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. You are brilliant. You are essential.

You may not feel that sometimes. That happens. Sometimes you won't feel inspired or validated or complimented. Sometimes you won't feel like I said anything helpful for you at church that week.

I'm going to say something else radical about that— sometimes you might not be there for you.

We're not a faith individual. We're a faith community. Maybe, sometimes, you're there to help someone else in their faith— if only by singing the hymn that will speak to them or reading the passage that's going to inspire them.

I don't know if salt feels like salt. Salt simply is salt. Salt is essential for the things it encounters. It's the same with light. Light illuminates other things.

I'm going to ask something radical, here, too. Show up. Show up even when you don't feel like it— even if you don't think it'll matter. You might be a light for someone else that day. Be open, though, too. Someone else just might turn into a light for you.

Some days it won't feel like it, but some days will. Some days will click. Whether you feel it or not, it doesn't change what you are.

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill will not— cannot— be hidden.

## March Children's Ministry Update

The Sunday School children learned about Moses as a baby and Moses and the 10 Commandments during the month of February. March lessons will be about Noah's Ark, Palm Sunday & Easter.

**SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 21st - 24th!** You will be able to register your child (ren) online starting in *April*. VBS schedule is the following: Preschool children attend from 9am-11am. Children in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade attend from 9am-3pm. They will need one snack and a sack lunch each day. **Please register your child in the same class they were in for the 2019-2020 school year.** The cost of VBS is \$15/child for Pre-K and \$50/child for Kdg.-6th grade or a \$150 family cap.\* Scholarships are available. VBS payment can be made online at the time of registration or your child can bring payment on the first day. Registration will be open in April.

We are still in need of volunteers for VBS. Please contact [youthsjlc@gmail.com](mailto:youthsjlc@gmail.com) if you are able to help with Preschool class, registration, lunch and /or hosting our camp counselors.

### Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 8th: **Spring Break** - No Sunday School
  - Sunday, March 15th: **Camp Sunday!** The Program Director from Camp Onomia will be joining us during the services and Sunday School to lead us in worship songs.
  - Sunday, April 5th: **Palm Sunday:** Sunday School children will sing at the beginning of the 8:00 service. Parents can drop their children off in the gathering area at 7:50 with their teachers.
  - Sunday, April 12th: **Easter Sunday--NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- Sunday, May 3rd: **Last Day of Sunday School** --Children will sing at 9:30, between services, and enjoy ice cream sundaes in the gathering area afterwards.

### Connect Update

During Lent, students are expected to attend the Wednesday Evening Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m. with their family and/or classmates and fill out family worship sheets. There will be **no** regular class or pizza for Connect students during the season of Lent.

**REMINDER:** The 5th and 6th grade Connect students are expected to have completed **10 sermon notes** by the end of our Connect year in May. Lenten services do not count towards the sermon note requirements.

### **\*\*\*NEW MEETING DATE & TIME\*\*\***

**The Children's Ministry Team meetings are held the first Sunday of every month. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 1st at 9:15am in the prep room.**

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We are in need of volunteers to serve during the coffee hour. Please check

the schedules to see if there is a date you can serve.

Please contact: Sherrie Simcox at 612-598-5309 or email her at

[sherriesimcox@gmail.com](mailto:sherriesimcox@gmail.com), if you have questions.

### ***New Church Picture Directories!***

If you had your picture taken you have a free Directory with your name on it on a table by where the Greeters stand. Please pick yours up!

If you did not have your picture taken but would like a Directory - please sign up to get one.

Sign up sheet located is on the table by where the Greeters stand. Deadline to sign up is the last Sunday in March. Cost is \$3 per Directory, payable to St. John. (Or please call the church office by the deadline to get your name on the list).

### **Do you have some free time to share?**

Our church has a long tradition of presenting a warm and inviting luncheon for our church families following the funerals of their loved ones. This simple act of kindness could not continue without the generous volunteers from our congregation who are 'committed to serve'. The funeral committee is currently seeking additional members to add to the volunteer list. Please contact a funeral committee co-chair (Marlys Koeppe, Carol Schultz, Adella Gruetzmacher or Susan Volek) if you have any questions or to add your name and availability times.

If you would be more interested in **ushering** for funerals, please contact Head Usher Brent Koeppe, to have your name added to the list of on-call volunteers.

Thank you for considering these important volunteer opportunities.



## Stewardship Spotlight

### **Volunteer Focus On:** Neal Williamson

Neal Williamson grew up with one younger brother down in Pipestone, MN. His mother worked as an office manager for a Pepsi distributor, and his father ran his own refrigeration business. After high school he went north for college, to Moorhead State, where he majored in economics. That knowledge, coupled with some self-taught IT know-how, led him to a career with Wells Fargo pretty early on in his professional life. Now, an Operational Risk Senior Associate for them, he had the opportunity to live and work in both Iowa and Arizona for many years before ultimately moving back to Minnesota. 14 years ago, looking to return north, the appeal of raising his 2 small children in a smaller town drew Neal and his family to Belle Plaine. They wanted an ELCA Lutheran congregation to call home, and landed at St. John, where Neal found himself becoming involved in a variety of activities over the years.

During his years as a member here, Neal has served on the council, even spending 3 years as President; he also served on a Stewardship Team for a couple of years, has spent time on, and headed up, the Technology Committee, and continues to help maintain St. John's wireless service. He's helped with video services in the past, and most recently has been helping out as a Connect teacher, teaching classes for the last 4 years. The activities he has been involved with have been a good match for Neal's personality and skill set. He enjoys working with people, and taking leadership roles when it makes sense. His technical skills and interest in IT have also been key. He admits he doesn't say no very well, so will usually agree when asked to help or be part of something.

When asked what he thinks are St. John's strengths, and about any long term ideas he has, Neal cites the strong youth and children's programs and ministries. Seeing those as a real asset and benefit to the congregation, he would love to see the church continue to find and implement ways to engage the parents of the youth. The hope being that adult involvement would continue long after the children are done with confirmation. He also says he appreciates the stewardship St. John offers within its congregation, and would like to see that pushed outward into the community more.

As people with a wide variety of interests, Neal and his wife Trena are kept busy by an active household, attending activities with her 2 children: Taylor – 19, and Cade – 17; as well as Neal's 3 kids: Kiya – 13, Jadyn – 12, and Rylan – 9. Between them all there are a plethora of school, sports, and creative arts activities to attend and assist with. Beside spending time with family, Neal also enjoys golfing, running, reading, and shooting endless games of pool on his table at home.

Thank you to Neal, and to all our members who share their time and talents with St. John!

**Your Gifts Make a Difference  
Thank You**

**2020 Lenten Season Soup and Sandwich Supper Menu  
St. John Lutheran Church  
(menu subject to change)**

#### **March 4**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Chicken Tortilla

**Sandwiches:** Sloppy Joes, Ham and Chicken Salad

**Confirmation Group Serving:** Molly Moonen, Erin Carlson, Sara Fahey and Heather Hornaman

#### **March 11**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Beef Stew

**Sandwiches:** Ham, Turkey and Egg Salad

**Confirmation Group Serving:** Mindy Chevalier, Shannon Swenson, Melanie Fogarty and Jenn Nagorski

#### **March 18**

**Soups:** Chicken Wild Rice and Chicken Noodle

**Sandwiches:** Shredded Chicken, Hot Beef and Ham

**Confirmation Group Serving:** Marjorie Tracy and Karmen Gruhn

#### **March 25**

**Soups:** Chicken Noodle and Baked Potato

**Sandwiches:** Sloppy Joes, Turkey and Chicken Salad

**Confirmation Group Serving:** Deana Siekmann and Mya Holzemer

#### **April 1**

**Soups:** Chili (hot and mild) and Left Over Soups

**Sandwiches:** Ham, Turkey, Grilled Cheese

**Confirmation Group Serving:** Mission Trip

# March 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Phoebe Einertson Carter Kes Sarah Leonard Jaxson Overline	2 Katie Herrmann Chase Jaworski Kyle Sammons	3 Noah Hornaman John Karl Amy Rosario	4 Harrison Bungarden Elmer Koeppe	5 Joseph Franck Clarrissa Lutterman Luke Schultz	6 Walker Herrmann Douglas Nasby	7 Lauren Tesch Shirley Youngblom
8 Courtney Bristlin Mya Holzemer	9 Lee Bessel Tim Carlson Jacqueline Johnson Curtis Koeppe Alyana Lindahl Griffin Ruud	10 James Karl Wendy Koeppe	11 Audrey Havemeier Jean Jackels Sarah Theis	12 Luke Andert	13	14 Ann Carstens Alexander Rosario Roger Stier
15 Vivian Holberg Henry Husfeldt Lucy Leonard Callie Stoutland	16 Ally Fink Michael Olson Keith Siemon Douglas Steen Landon Trost	17 Abigail Johnson	18 Kace Hutchison Brian Overline Sully Schultz	19 Meghan Malz Sheila Schmidt Emily Siemon	20 Constance Bergs Treyden Hiles	21 Mary Kay Nasby
22 Rory Connelly Nora Hansen Blair Henke Alexandra Stauffacher Emily Vinkemeier	23 Dorothy Koeppe	24 Shane Henke Roland Perkins	25 Savannah Filipek Miranda Koenig Joan Olson Robert Palmer Joseph Petersen	26 Diane Bratsch	27 Brittney Dandurand Corey Hansen Mitchel Stier	28 Eli Braun Megan Doebbeling Aiden Johnson Allen Koopp
29 Svea Olson	30 Landon Graff Alexander Stier	31 Misty Johnson Nora Meuleners Carol Peterson				

# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Noisy Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Children's Ministry Team meeting 1:00p New Member Orientation	2 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	3 10:00 Cardinal Ridge Service 11:00 Lutheran Home Service 1:00p Quilting 1:00 Kingsway Service	4 4:30p Youth Choir 5:30p Soup and Sandwich 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p Adult Choir	5	6	7 7:00 Weight Watchers 10:00 Memorial Service for Ralph French 6:00p Worship Service
8 New Member Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15 Church Council Executive meeting	9 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	10 9:30 WELCA Bible Study 1:00p Quilting	11 4:30p Youth Choir 5:00p Personnel Meeting 5:30p Soup and Sandwich 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p Adult Choir	12	13	14 7:00 Weight Watchers 6:00p Worship Service
15 Camp Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15 Sunday School	16 8:00 Men's Bible Study 1:00p Private Party in Gathering area 6:30p Boy Scouts	17 1:00p Quilting 7:00p Book Club	18 4:30p Youth Choir 5:30p Soup and Sandwich 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p Adult Choir	19 6:30p Church Council	20	21 7:00 Weight Watchers 9:00 Bridal Shower 10:00 Scrapbooking 6:00p Worship Service
22 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15 Sunday School	23 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	24 1:00p Quilting 6:00p Cub Scout Pack meeting	25 4:30p Youth Choir 5:30p Soup and Sandwich 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p Adult Choir	26	27	28 7:00 Weight Watchers 6:00p Worship Service
29 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15 Sunday School 11:30 Private Party in the Gathering area 4:30p Cub Scout Crossover	30 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	31 1:00p Quilting				

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council  
Minutes February 20, 2020

President Matt Stier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Pastor Mark Johnson, Pastor Sarah Timian, Council Members; Matt Stier, Chris Stier, Chris Zellman, Jim Eggers, Mya Holzemer, Angie Kahle, Bob Fairbanks, Albert Koepp, Sue Koenig. **Staff:** Curt Johnson and Treasurer, Rae Fimon **Guests:** Kevin Koepp

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Sarah shared devotions

**Approval of Minutes:** Members of Council reviewed the minutes from the January 16, 2020 Council Meeting and the January 26 Reorganizational meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from both meetings.

**Pastor Mark's Report:** Midweek Lenten schedules and plans are underway. Thank you to our Confirmation Small Groups Leaders for planning and coordinating our weekly dinners and to our Leaders, Confirmands, Families and Mission Trip Participants for hosting them. Services are planned for Ash Wednesday and subsequent weeks with contacts being made for music and speakers. Plans and preparations have been made for hosting a "Families Moving Forward" at St. John from the week of February 16 - 23, working together in collaboration with other churches in our area. Currently, we are planning on providing shelter, meals and hospitality for three families who are experiencing homelessness.

Initial discussions with the Executive Committee regarding exploring options to provide a comprehensive strategic plan for the congregation moving forward into the future that would include input and participation from members involving vision, mission and ministry planning, staffing needs, facilities and property considerations, as well as a longer range vision to position ourselves to grow in the best way into the future.

Continuing and ongoing activities include pastoral visitation with holy communion in homes and hospitals, planning and participation with baptisms, weddings, funerals, and special services, administrative duties with staff and committees, communication and correspondences, etc.

**Pastor Sarah's Report: Youth Ministry**—Students are continuing to plan for next summer's Mission Trip to Vermont. The Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, February 23. A Youth Delegate was elected at the Annual Meeting, making this the third year in a row that St. John will send a Youth Representative with our Delegation.

**Connect and Confirmation**—Students and Adult Leaders helped to pack 24,192 meals at Feed My Starving Children on January 22. Students have been sent information regarding the Lenten Dinners and Worship Schedule and expectations as well as registration forms for Confirmation Camp. Camp registration forms are due on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

**Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative**—Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative continues to address homelessness on multiple levels, from direct programs like Families Moving Forward, to developing supportive and affordable housing, to advocating for policy and funding at the state level. Families Moving Forward is at St. John Lutheran Church February 16-23. Beacon is also inviting participation in a postcard campaign through the next few weeks. Postcards will be available to fill out and address to elected representatives to encourage them to address the issue of homelessness.

**Ongoing Items**—Worship Leadership for Saturday and Sunday Services; Meetings with Connect and Confirmation Leaders and Students; Pastoral Conversations and Visits; Ministry Team Meetings as needed and available; Planning and Preparation for events, meetings, newsletter articles, classes, communication pieces, mailings, worship services, etc.

**Staff Report: Custodial:** Curt informed the council of some repairs and updates that have been made. He received a quote for installing ceiling fans in the gathering area, purchase of a second pastoral microphone with mouthpiece, The back door entrance needs to be locked manually, the flower cooler had a malfunction this week and all contents inside were frozen - Curt believes it is the thermostat



and will check on repair cost. The bathroom faucet in the mens bathroom was leaking and needed repair. Curt discussed with the council the many groups that use our gathering area for meetings and that as meetings increase, so does cost for heat/cooling and lights. The council discussed possibly asking the not-for-profit groups that use the spaces if they would be willing to give back to the church by helping with outside clean-up, minor repairs, Spring and Fall cleaning, etc.

**Treasurer:** Rae presented the January financial reports for the General and Building fund and answered questions from the council.

**Transfers:**

No Transfers in or out this month.

**Ongoing Business**

No new ongoing business

**New Business**

**A. Job Descriptions and Covenant** - Pastor MArk shared the Covenant and Job descriptions with all council members

**B. Replacement for Amanda Schultz on council board** - The council discussed possible replacements for Amanda as she has respectfully stepped down from the council. Pastor Mark will check with the nominating committee

**C. Wild Game Feed - At St. John's May 3, 2020** - setup will begin after the second service on the 3rd. The banquet will start at 4:30, dinner at 6:00 with a speaker at 7:00 - any donations from hunters can be given to members: Chris Stier, Jim Eggers, Brian Siekman, Matt Stier

**D. Synod Toolkit Conference Assemblies - Saturday, February 22, 2020, St. Andrew Lutheran Church - Eden Prairie** - Rae and Jillmarie are planning to attend

**E. Pictorial Directories** - Directories are in and ready for pick-up for families who had photos taken. St. John's will be ordering 50 books to have on hand for New Members. There will be a sign up sheet with a deadline date of March 29th for any families or members that would like a book that may not have gotten one. The books are \$3.00 a piece.

**F. Janitorial back-up for Curt and Cheryl** - Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the position of back up custodians for Curt and Cheryl at \$10.00 an hour. The council is aware of members that have expressed interest in this position and Curt will connect with them.

**G. Monetary Cap for items that need council approval** - Discussion was had about appointing a cap on purchases at a determined monetary amount. Motion was made, seconded and carried to make the Cap at 5% of the property improvement fund per project before approval by the church council.

**H. Strategic Planning for future mission and ministry** - Discussion by the council was had about the future planning of St. John's. Looking into short and long-term planning and how we can engage the congregation in an intentional and thoughtful way. Agreement was made by the council that we need to have a specific and well thought out plan. Discussion was had around looking outside for help from some consulting groups. Pastor Mark will look into a few options to have consultants come to the council to give information to our April meeting.

**Ministry Team Updates**

1. Stewardship Committee - Meeting set for Sunday, February 23rd
2. Buildings and Grounds Committee - has not met
3. Personnel Committee - will be meeting in 2 weeks
4. Children's Ministry Committee - Will begin meeting on Sundays
5. Small Group/Faith Formation Committee - has not met
6. Worship and Music Committee - has not met
7. Technology and Communications Committee - has not met
8. Festivals Committee - has not met

Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:32pm. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angie Kahle, Secretary

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

As you read through the worship assistant rotation schedule, take note if you are scheduled and make sure you have it on your calendar! Thank you for your participation!

<b>March 1 Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz</span>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes:</b> Ethan Bessel & Savanna Berg <b>Greeters:</b> Matt & Kristin Stier Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Sue Steinhagen <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Cory & Lynn Johnson <b>Ushers:</b> Terry Siemon, James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin	<b>Acolytes:</b> Violet Holtberg <b>Greeters:</b> Lee & Vicki Sauter <b>Lay Readers:</b> Brent Koepf <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Todd & Dynelle Kruggel <b>Ushers:</b> Scott Ruud, Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Dale Mercado, Jake Mercado, Jerry Meger, Alex Meger, Brody Curtiss

<b>March 8 Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz</span>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jeff & Amy Eppen Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Larry Kiewel <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Warren Wolf & Jan Effinger <b>Ushers:</b> Terry Siemon, James & John Karl, Dan & Wyatt Herrmann, Tim Bristlin, Caleb Eppen, Wyatt Vossen	<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jason & Karmen Gruhn Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Sara Bungarden <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Marv & Rhonda Doeden <b>Ushers:</b> Scott Ruud, Alex Ruud, Griffin Ruud, Dale Mercado, Jake Mercado, Jerry Meger, Alex Meger, Brody Curtiss

<b>March 15 Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz</span>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Brent & Margaret Schwichtenberg Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Linda Schwichtenberg <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Sharon Adelman & Dorothy Koepf <b>Ushers:</b> Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Katelyn Bauer, Doug Hillstrom, Jerold Stauffacher, Dave Latzke	<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Tim & Molly Moonen Family <b>Lay Readers:</b> Luke Meriwether <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Brent Koepf & Sam Schmidt <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Kevin, Marcy & Garrett Boblitt, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Todd Kruggel

<b>March 22 Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz</span>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Mark & Sherrie Simcox <b>Lay Readers:</b> Maddy Siekmann <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Angela Faucette & Katie Graff <b>Ushers:</b> Brian Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Jason Schmidt, Katelyn Bauer, Doug Hillstrom, Jerold Stauffacher, Dave Latzke	<b>Acolytes:</b> Megan Holzemer <b>Greeters:</b> Chris & Annette Molyan <b>Lay Readers:</b> Annette Moylan <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Phoebe Einterson & Cindy Schoenbauer <b>Ushers:</b> Brent Koepf, Mitchell Koepf, Kevin, Marcy & Garrett Boblitt, Jackson Stauffacher, Justin Stauffacher, Todd Kruggel, Lila Bungarden, Kiya Williamson

<b>March 29 Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sandra Schultz, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Schultz</span>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes:</b> Noah Hanson <b>Greeters:</b> Bonnie Vinkemeier <b>Lay Readers:</b> Pat Laabs <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Lou & Peg Longhenry <b>Ushers:</b> Marc & Mindy Chevalier, Andy Steinhagen, Kade Skelley, Bruce Koepf, Tammy Koepf	<b>Acolytes:</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Marv & Rhonda Doeden <b>Lay Readers:</b> Steve Schroeder <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Marv & Rhonda Doeden <b>Ushers:</b> Chris & Annette Moylan, Mike & Zach Olson, Jason & Trevor Gruhn, Steve Schroeder

***There are now two new ways to give to St. John***

You can now give to St. John through a text or through an App. To learn how to use the App or text go to our website, [www.stjohnbelleplaine.org](http://www.stjohnbelleplaine.org), click on "Serve" and then "Giving" and click on the instructions for the App or Text.

**Financial Corner**

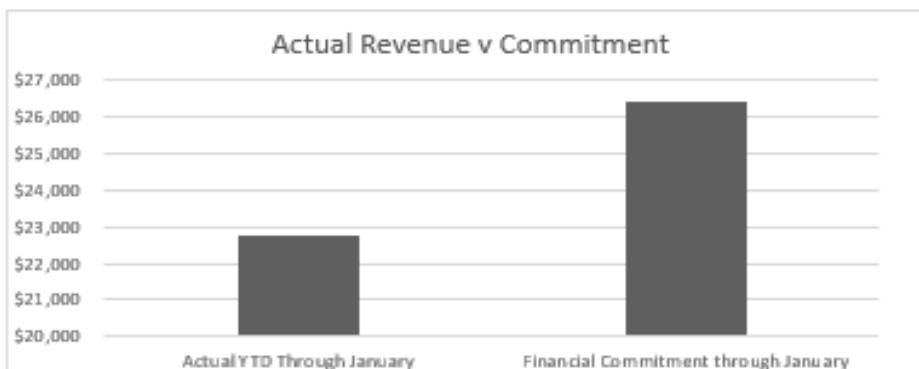
**St. John General Fund Financial Results  
One Month Ending January 31, 2020 and January 31, 2019**

Operating Fund			Year Over Year Increase (Decrease)
	January 31, 2020	January 31, 2019	
Income	\$ 22,780	\$ 24,051	-5%
Expenses:			
Personnel	(26,514)	(23,765)	
Office	(2,645)	(2,304)	
Property & Maintenance	(2,968)	(2,720)	
Ministry Teams	(960)	(1,171)	
Other	(236)	(460)	
Benevolence:			
Minneapolis Area Synod	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Lutheran Social Services	-	-	
Camp Onomia	(250)	(250)	
Net Receipts / (Expenditures)	<u>\$ (11,793)</u>	<u>\$ (7,619)</u>	
Cash Balance at January 1 (Excl. Loans)	\$ (84,836)	\$ (64,346)	
Net Income / (Expenditures)	(11,793)	(7,619)	
Misc. cash not affecting income	(1,377)	(1,568)	
Loan from Building Fund (2018 & 2019)	54,500	35,000	
Loan from St. John Foundation (2014-2016)	53,709	53,220	
Cash Balance at January 31	<u>\$ 10,203</u>	<u>\$ 14,687</u>	

Building Fund			
	January 31, 2020	January 31, 2019	
Receipts	\$ 8,634	\$ 7,613	13%
Principal	(9,408)	(8,980)	
Interest	(1,152)	(1,580)	
Net Receipts / (Disbursements)	<u>\$ (1,926)</u>	<u>\$ (2,947)</u>	
Loan Balance at January 1	\$ 325,224	\$ 435,544	
Principal Payments	(9,408)	(8,980)	
Loan Balance at January 31	<u>\$ 315,816</u>	<u>\$ 426,564</u>	

**Actual Income Compared to 2020 Financial Commitment:**

Actual YTD Through January	\$ 22,780
Financial Commitment through January	26,417



St. John Lutheran Church  
148 S. Chestnut St.  
Belle Plaine 56011

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 16  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested



St. John will be holding a "Wild Game Feed"  
on May 3.

Watch this newsletter and the bulletin for  
more information to come.

**Monthly Events**

First Tuesday-

10:00am Cardinal Ridge Service

11:00am Lutheran Home Service

1:00pm Kingsway Service

Second Tuesday- Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
Kitchen Area

**Weekly Events**

**Monday's**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study at Kingsway

**Tuesday's**

1:00pm Quilting

**Wednesday's**

4:30pm Youth Choir

6:30pm Connect/Confirmation Classes

7:30pm Adult Choir

**Saturday's**

6:00 pm Worship Service in Gathering Area

**Sunday's**

8:00 & 10:30am Worship Services

9:15am Sunday School